The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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VOL. 5, NO. 50. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1916. WHOLE NO. 258.

COLORADO OFFICIALS "PERMIT" A STRIKE

Denver, Col., March 11.—After an investigation that started last November, the state industrial commission has announced that the demands of the Denver Journeymen Tailors' union are just. This means that the tailors can now strike if necessary to enforce their demands without violating a law passed by the last legislature. This law provides that a strike is misdemeanor punishable by fine, unless the employes give at least 30 days' notice to the state industrial commission before they strike, and what was heretofore conceded a fundamental right—quit work for any reason or no reason—at any time.

On December 20 last the Journeymen Tailors' union notified the commission that they desired higher wages and better working conditions. Numberless hearings have been held and voluminous testimony contributed before the commission preceding its decision.

The demands of the journeymen tailors for a schedule of wages and prices that shall be definite is an absolute just demand.

During the long hearings before the commission, organizer Bishop of the tailors warned that the employers were forcing an "indirect lockout" in violation of the law, sending their work to other parts of the state. Writing in the official magazine of the Journeymen Tailors' union, he said:

"This new law and the industrial commission of the state of Colorado have stood idly by while the wall paper manufacturers, tailors of Denver and a chance to bolster up their sagging industrial fences, enforced by militia, could so effectually paralyze our efforts as has this new weapon. We must wait for the next industrial suppression, so far as the tailors are concerned. Our members would rapidly fall away in the meantime if we did not get a chance to deposit a vote to wipe out the law and the commission.

"The situation exasperates our members because they know that the bosses are laughing in their sleeves at the whole thing off till dull season.

"We have appealed to the commission and to the governor, and have appealed ourselves, tied up with red tape. If the merchant tailors had made the law and the commission themselves, they could not have done it much better."

OPPOSE ANTI-PICKET LAW

Seattle Wash., March 11.—The attack on organized labor by the Employers' Association of Washington at a banquet in this city has stirred the unionists of the entire state into activity in their fight to repeal the anti-picket law, passed by the last legislature. The workers have been organized in the voting a state-wide referendum on this legislation and it will go on the ballot at the next general election.

This portion of President Skinner's speech will indicate the spirit of these anti-unionists:

"I am forced to conclude that we are not peddling too much with the irresponsible element in unionism. If we neglect our duty for a longer time, force of some description may have to be invoked. Why not start right now to eliminate gradually these obnoxious conditions and not wait a month, a year, in the future? Unconsciously, day by day, we are contributing our quota toward the continuance and probable perpetuation of uncivilized union methods."

DEATHS IN INDUSTRY SHOWN.

Sacramento, Cal., March 11.—The report of the state industrial accident commission sounds like a report from one of the European battle fronts. It is shown that during 1915 number of accidents in industries in this state was 62,211, of which 671 were fatal and 4,286 were injuries of a permanent nature.

"With the exception of Sundays and holidays," says the commission, "employees may prepare every morning to have some one return them to their homes for burial. In other words, about twice this number must make application each day to the surgeon for the elimination of parts of their bodies that are beyond preserve them. Not a few die of poisonous gas and many suffer shock which destroy their nervous systems."

DATA ON SICKNESS INSURANCE.

Sacramento, Cal., March 11.—The state commission on social insurance, authorized by the last legislature to investigate and recommend legislation as to the extension of the principle of social insurance in this state, will recommend "sickness insurance," or insurance against illness for the benefit of wageworkers and their families, the commission has also decided to investigate "unemployment insurance," and it will recommend to the 1917 legislature specific action on these two matters.

"8-HOUR OPPONENTS HAVE NO ARGUMENTS"

Boston, March 11.—There are no arguments left against the eight-hour day in any industry except railroading, says the Boston Journal, which intimates that the reduction of the eight-hour day in "the most complicated of industries" is not an impossibility, and that its acceptance is but a far-reaching effect on all industry by making the struggle for a universal eight-hour day much easier. It is a leading editorial on the subject in the paper says:

"For the American Federation of Labor to boost the eight-hour day is nothing new, certainly, for the eight-hour proposition has already made good its claim of adoption, with many triumphs to its credit. But for the A. F. of L. to concentrate its attention upon the eight-hour work day—that would be new, and it would be effective. The Federation's new campaign, published as the eight-hour day enlists the aid of every union in the country from the machinists' to the greatest, is nothing revolutionary in the method, any more than in the scope of its campaign. Its national headquarters only asks the local bodies to pull together in educating the public up to an understanding of the eight hour for work, eight hours for sleep, eight hours for free time.

"The gain of the last 12 months is considerable, not only in material gains as represented by the victories in scattered industries, but in influence upon the public mind.

"There are no arguments left against the eight-hour day, except in industries where operation cannot definitely fix the source of each man's labor—as railroading, for example, where running schedules must be regulated for the public and not for the employe.

"The railroad brotherhoods' coming demand for the eight-hour day, with time-and-a-half for overtime, will be the most conspicuous dealing with the question this year. A favorable reception of it by the public would be the greatest encouragement ever given toward a shortening of the working day. If the day can be conquered in the most complicated industries, so it can in the simply shop industries."

GOVERNOR CARLSON'S MIDDLE AGES' EDICT

Denver, Col., March 11.—Because several hundred unemployment at Leadville suspended work in defiance of a state law, which makes it illegal for workers to strike until they have given state authorities 30 days' notice, Governor Carlson threatened these workers with all the power of the state if they do not return to their employment.

The effort to drive the employes back to work sounds like a pronouncement of the Middle Ages, while the state executive's plea for lawlessness in this case loses weight when one recalls the debauchery of Colorado last year by mine operators.

This is Governor Carlson's thunderous declaration:

"The striking amelermen at Leadville are guilty of a brazen and impudent defiance of that provision of the industrial law which compels 30 days' notice to the industrial commission before men may go out on a strike. The strikers are foreigners and it was thought for a time that their ignorance of our language caused all the trouble. It is not. The law's most important provision.

"The industrial commission, therefore, requested the Austrian consul to translate the law's provisions to the strikers. This was done and the consul explained all, knowledge of the law met with insulting and defiant refusal to obey it. This course of the strikers is unwarranted, decided, for heretofore both employers and employes have willingly abided by the provisions of the law. Such action by men who claim this country's protection and enjoy its advantages presents a most sinister aspect and calls for the firmest enforcement of the law's penalties.

"I am informed that these men, because of their numbers, feel safe in their present organized defiance of the law, following foolish counsel for, if the local police are unable to enforce the court's mandates, the entire machinery of the state government, if necessary, will be brought into action promptly and effectively."

VIOLATE LAW BY STRIKING.

Leadville, Col., March 11.—Practically all of the 600 striking smelter-workers employed by the American Smelting and Refining company have returned to work or left the district. These workers are unorganized and unable to speak the English language and they suspended work without complying with the law passed by the last legislature which makes it a misdemeanor to strike before the state industrial commission 30 days' notice.

The strike was caused by increased work being demanded, compelled to secure employment through an agent who charges a month's wages for the job, wages one store and because pay checks are "shaved" by a company favorite.

When the strike started the state machinery of the state was put in motion to enforce the law. The governor issued a call to quit their employment when conditions are onerous. Attorney General Farrar announced that none of the strikers would not be arrested, because of insufficient jail accommodations, the strikers would be confined in the state militia.

Governor Carlson publicly declared that every force would be brought to bear against the strikers, and Brigadier Gen. McLaughlin of the state industrial commission announced that the power and authority of the state of Colorado will stand back of and support the activities of Leadville officials to punish any and all crimes against the state."

The strike has awakened Colorado to the danger of the power of the law and also to the fact that they cannot quit their employment "for any or no reason," as they have always believed.

SHORTER HOURS FOR FIREMEN.

Buffalo, N. Y., March 11.—The Evening Times is not alarmed at Mayor Fuhrmann's estimate that the cost of a two-platoon system in the municipal fire department would be $221,000 for the first year. The paper calls attention to the difference between these figures and the estimates of department officials, and says:

"Taking the proposition at Mayor Fuhrmann's figures, however, the total cost of the change would be less than 40 cents a thousand on the tax rate. As a business proposition that is not much to pay for a change from the slave system of 21 hours a day to a reasonable basis that would give the men and the fire department. All the arguments on the ground of efficiency and expense in the end have been overcome, and but the one argument of humanity is to be urged in favor of the change. The city of today, however, is an agency of humanities and this is an age of humanities. It is time that too long been considered above the man."

POTTERS REFUSE WAGE CUT.

Metuchen, N. J., March 11.—The Phoenix pottery works, manufacturers of porcelain bath tubs, laundry tubs, lavatories, sinks, etc., locked out its employes this morning because they refused a wage reduction of 25 per cent and the firm is now endeavoring to operate the plant with strikebreakers. The locked-out employes are receiving financial assistance from their international union, the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters, and they are confident that with the moral support of organized labor and its friends, they will win.

POWDER WORKERS' LOW WAGES

National City, Cal., March 11.—Employes of the Giant Powder Consolidated company, protesting against wages paid by this concern. It is stated that the company is building a new mill and workers will be compelled to board there and pay $1 a day. Cots will be furnished, but the workers will have to furnish their own bed clothes. Signs are posted around this plant warning employes not to leave the premises.

PACKERS HAVE EAR TO GROUND.

Chicago, March 11.—Increasing trade union sentiment in Chicago's packing house district has resulted in small wage increases to 35,000 employes at the plants of the Armour, Swift, Morris and Cudahy companies. These workers are practically unorganized, the packers depending their trade unions several years ago after a long strike.

MILK WAGON DRIVERS GAIN.

St. Louis, Mo., March 11.—The Stolzhaus Sanitary Dairy company, the last of the large non-union dairy concerns in this city, has signed a contract with the Milk Wagon Drivers' union, which has succeeded during the past month in securing agreements from concerns that were supposed to be invulnerable.

CLAY WORKERS WIN.

Toronto, Ohio, March 11.—The Clay Workers' union, affiliated to the American Federation of Labor, has raised wages 3 cents a day.

PROFIT SHARING PLAN WILL NOT SATISFY MEN

Washington, March 11.—During the 3½ hours' strike of street car men in this city officials of the two companies expressed great surprise that their employes did not appreciate the so-called profit-sharing schemes and benefit associations that were inaugurated for their benefit.

The employes' position is well stated in the following editorial in the Washington Times, under the caption, "Rights Wanted, Not Bribes."

"The employes of the cities' railway companies will not be satisfied for long if they are bribed with benefits, allowances, profit-sharing plans and relief organizations. Thus rendering fundamental human rights.

"It is reported that the officers of the street car corporations are taking the position that profit-sharing projects will be impossible if the men insist on organizing and that such action will be interpreted as conduct of their relations with their employes. That sort of argument will be the end but a waste of time and of organizing or negotiating cooperatively, of dealing as a unity with humanity with a unit of money and management, will have to be conceded.

"Men organize in the cities, towns, townships, provinces, states, nations, in order more effectively to serve their individual ends—to safeguard their rights. They organize into corporations in order to pool their capital for more effective use. It is by the same motives by men who claim this country's protection and enjoy its advantages present a most sinister aspect and calls for the firmest enforcement of the law's penalties.

"I am informed that these men, because of their numbers, feel safe in their present organized defiance of the law, following foolish counsel for, if the local police are unable to enforce the court's mandates, the entire machinery of the state government, if necessary, will be brought into action promptly and effectively."

PORTO RICO PRINTING OFFICE

Washington, March 11.—In a letter to A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison, Brigadier General McIntyre, chief of the bureau of insular affairs, says:

"This bureau favors the government printing office in Porto Rico and having the work done by the government and all of its bureaus done there, not only for the reasons urged by your correspondents in Porto Rico, but because our experience has been that we can produce in such an office a much higher class of work than it is possible to have produced in the ordinary printing office where the character of printing is limited, as in Porto Rico. We have found this the case in the Philippines and also in the District and have trained local printers so that we have now a handy class of work than was possible before the establishment of a government printing office."

Secretary Morrison presented General McIntyre with correspondence from San Juan in opposition to the letter relative to this matter, and while the bureau chief expresses his belief that all government printing should be done by the Porto Rican printing office, he says he is willing to the existence of private printing offices for a portion of this work, and who use their influence to this end.

STATE FUND PAYS DIVIDENDS.

Albany, N. Y., March 11.—The state industrial commission, which administers the state insurance fund, has authorized the payment of a third semi-annual dividend to policy holders. The average dividend paid on each policy to policy holders is 15 per cent. The group classed as light manufacturing risks gets 20 per cent. The former dividends averaged about the same.

The surplus earned by the fund for policy holders, as reported by the commission on July 1, 1914, is about $600,000. The financial statement shows that the fund on June 30, 1915, was $1,342,638.69, and the number of policies was 4,567, an increase of 1,500.

DRESSMAKERS WIN.

New York, March 11.—Dressmakers' union No. 50, affiliated to the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union, has won its fight in New York and has secured a signed agreement with the Manufacturers' association in this industry. Hours are reduced to 49 a week and wages for piece workers are raised 10 per cent with a minimum wage of $18. Girl workers receive a weekly increase of $1; on January 1, next year, an additional $1, and another increase of $1 on January 1, 1917. Cutters who are paid $29 a week or less will be increased $2 a week; and those receiving over $29 will receive an additional $1 a week.

SUSTAIN COMPENSATION ACT.

Columbus, Ohio, March 11.—The district court of appeals has upheld the decision of the Franklin county common pleas court, which declared section 7 of the state compensation law unconstitutional. This section provides that where employers fail to insure their workers, the state industrial commission may investigate and award damages against the employer. This is one of the most important parts of the law and scores of similar cases will hinge on the outcome, as opponents of the compensation will appeal to the supreme court.

CAN'T ESCAPE TAXATION

Columbus, Ohio, March 11.—The state supreme court has handed down a decision which pay to city street car companies a bonus for the privilege of operating their cars over the city lines cannot deduct the amount of the bonus from the gross receipts upon which they pay a franchise tax to the state.

NAVY YARD WORKERS UNITE.

Portsmouth, Va., March 11.—Taking advantage of the amended constitution of the A. F. of L. several trade departments employes of the navy yard at this place have formed a metal trades council. Twenty-two trades and crafts, with 500 per cent organized, are represented in the new body.

MOLDERS RAISE WAGES.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, March 11.—The Iron Molders' union has raised wages from $2.60 to $2.75 per day. Every shop in the city but one has accepted these wages without a strike.

UNION LABEL

HATTERS' RELIEF FUND.

Washington, March 11.—Up to and including Wednesday, March 8, A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison has received $90,650.86 for the benefit of the Danbury hatters. This amount represents the pay of one hour's labor on January 27 by the unionists contributing.

GRAND JURY INDICTS SIX STEEL CONCERNS

Youngstown, Ohio, March 11.—"A lawless condition of affairs in and about the steel industry, is one portion of the report of the Mahoning county grand jury, which has returned indictments against the United States Steel Corporation the trust and Judge Gary, chairman of its executive board, who are charged, together with five other steel companies, with conspiring to fix the price of common labor in violation of the Sherman law, thereby bringing about an unrest that resulted in the recent strikes and riots at East Youngstown.

The five steel concerns are Republic Iron and Steel company, Youngstown Sheet and Tube company, Brier Hill Steel company, Youngstown Iron and Steel company, and the Carnegie Steel company.

The grand jury report states that the evidence shows "an absolute disregard on the part of certain corporations and individuals indicted by us either of the rights of or justice to the laboring class or the public generally."

The report states that the shots which precipitated the extreme acts of violence, lawlessness and crime which were committed on January 7, were shots fired into a meeting of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company.

COLORADO MINERS ACQUITTED.

Denver, Col., March 11.—Four members of the United Mine Workers' union have been declared not guilty of murder by a jury in Judge Denison's court at Castle Rock, brought in by the coroner's jury charged with killing Major Laster, and their prosecution was directed by State Attorney General Farrar.

The verdict is a blow to Colorado mining interests that have secured the services of hundreds of former strikers. These interests originally intended to have the miners tried before Judge Hillyer, ex-coal company attorney, whose appointment as a judge was made after the last legislature created a special court district. The miners, however, blocked this scheme by an order from the state supreme court which forbade Hillyer from further consideration of these cases after the verdict at Castle Rock is the result.

OLD WORKERS DISMISSED.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., March 11.—Declaring out dead timber," is the reason given by the management of 65 veteran employes at the Avondale colliery of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western company, the workers charge that these dismissals are the result of physical examinations under the new "efficiency" plan of the management of the state compensation act.

The ousted men were the oldest men in the employ at the colliery. Some had been in continuous employment of the company for a quarter of a century. Many have lost either an eye, leg or arm on duty.

Recently they were ordered to undergo a physical examination, and later got notice of their discharge.

Officials deny that the men were discharged because of physical disability, but say there is too much "dead timber" about the colliery.

DENVER PAPER CRIES "QUITS."

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The Rocky Mountain News, in a leading editorial, makes this suggestion:

"We take no good can come from continuing these blanket prosecutions. If this continues the murder will be charged to the district partisan politics and into the coming state campaign. The state executive should take the matter into his own hand and declare an amnesty."

NEW COMPENSATION DECISION.

Pottsville, Pa., March 11.—State's Compensation Referee Houck has rendered an far-reaching decision in his refusal of compensation to Sheridan M. March, a laborer, who was injured by the breaking of a scaffold at the home of a salesman. The decision is to the effect that March was employed as a casual employe, inasmuch as he was working "not in the regular course of the business of the employer."

LABORERS MUST ORGANIZE.

Toledo, Ohio, March 11.—"The great class of unskilled laborers must organize if they are to get their share in this world," said Prof. Leiserson of the Toledo university, in an address to church men.

"They can do nothing toward betterment of conditions as individuals. Organization is the solution to the question," he said.

TEAMSTERS MAKE GAINS.

Buffalo, N. Y., March 11.—Teamsters employed by the garbage and ash division of the municipal street department have raised wages $1 a week. These men are organized and have applied to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters for a charter. The settlement includes provision for adjusting future disputes. Organization of workers in this is the first time that municipal officials have recognized a trade union of city employes.

MACHINISTS STRIKE.

Franklin, Pa., March 11.—Machinists employed by the Chicago Pneumatic Tool company, the Colburn Machine Tool company and the Chicago Drop Forge company are on strike. They are demanding wage increases and an eight-hour day.

SECURE SUNDAY CLOSING LAW

Cheyenne, Wyo., March 11.—City commissioners have passed a Sunday closing ordinance. The Retail Clerks' union and other trade union organizations were strong supporters of the measure.

LATHERS WANT INCREASE.

Newark, N. J., March 11.—The Lathers' union has asked that wages be increased, to take effect May 1.

WASHINGTON CAR MEN UNITE; STRIKE; WIN

Washington, March 11.—The nation's capital experienced a two days' strike of street car men last Sunday and Monday that completely tied up transportation service. The city has 200 cars and two companies. The wage rates of one range from 2 1-2 to 25 cents after 10 years' service. The rates of the other is 22 1-2 cents an hour. Profit-sharing schemes, a single cause a year, death benefits, and a Christmas entertainment for children of employes is supposed to make up the difference between these rates and a living wage.

A short time ago International Treasurer Bezin and organizer of the Amalgamated Street Car Men's union, started a quiet organizing campaign, which was responded to by the men in an enthusiastic manner. Division No. 689 was formed, and committees presented a schedule of working conditions and wage rates to the companies. Failing to secure satisfaction, the men struck, as called last Sunday morning. The commissioners of the District of Columbia, together with representatives of the federal department of labor, assisted in securing an agreement, and the strike was called off. Most of the material concerns are Republic Iron and Steel company, Youngstown Sheet and Tube company, Brier Hill Steel company, Youngstown Iron and Steel company, and the Carnegie Steel company.

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STATES MAY LEVY TAX ON "TRADE COUPONS"

Washington, March 11.—By holding that states have the power to tax trade coupons redeemable in premiums, the United States supreme court has dealt a hard blow to the United Cigar Stores company and other non-union and sweat shop concerns that offer prizes to dispose of their wares. It is estimated that $125,000,000 of merchandise is sold annually in this way.

The court upheld the constitutionality of a law in Florida and Washington imposing taxes on coupons and dismissed the petition of a manager of the United Cigar Stores company, who was convicted of violating the Washington trading stamp act.

The decision was delivered by Justice McKenna, who denied that an act taxing these coupons was an interference with legitimate business, and insisted that the coupon scheme was simply a lure that has many of the elements of a lottery and gambling.

"They rely upon soothing rise than the article sold," said Justice McKenna. "They tempt by a promise of a value greater than that article, and apparently not represented in its price, and hence may be thought that thus, by an appeal to the feelings, the transaction, which may not be called in an exact sense a 'lottery,' may, not be called 'gaming,' it might, however, be considered as leading to the seduction and evil of such, and whether it has may be a matter of fair inference that it is finally within the power of the legislature to make."

SHIP WORKERS STRIKE.

Seattle, March 11.—Striking boilermakers and helpers employed by the Seattle Construction & Dry Dock company are picketing public the police and practices of this antiunion concern. They demand increase in wages and better conditions last December. A settlement was agreed to but was later repudiated by President Paterson of the company and the ship workers were forced to strike again.

The bosses are issuing a leaflet in which they say:

"Preparedness by J. V. Paterson and preparedness as advocated by labor are two very different things.

"Labor has had the best ground-work for preparedness is a patriotic, stalwart citizenry brought about by improved living conditions. Preparedness, such as a shorter workday, giving more time for mental development, and a proper wage for the man who has to provide the necessities of decent life.

"Mr. Paterson's statement of reverse is the truth, and for this reason the boilermakers, iron shipbuilders and helpers are on strike."

Mr. Paterson is now trying to fill the strikers' places with men who are "absolutely incompetent, rather than concede their meager demands.

Ships are in critical situation. Some time ago it was reported that the Chilean government condemned two submarines being built by the Seattle firm, as the ships were unfit for service. Afterwards sold to the Canadian government, and as Mr. Paterson himself declared, the "hitch in the deal" was a specialist firm would take part.

The U. S. S. Schley, launched July 4, which was built by this same firm as the cheapest, sank in Honolulu harbor, carrying down 21 men, during a severe storm, and the investigation showed that this was due to structural weakness."

COURT SUSTAINS TEACHERS.

Columbus, Ohio, March 11.—Cleveland school teachers, who are fighting in the courts for the right to belong to a union, have won an important technical point in the state supreme court which has overruled a motion to dismiss the teachers' petition that the decision of a court of appeals be reviewed.

Two years ago the teachers organized a union and affiliated with the Cleveland Federation of Labor. The board of education adopted a resolution forbidding teachers joining the union. The common pleas court issued an injunction restraining the board from enforcing the resolution. This later found the superintendent of public schools guilty of contempt. This decision was reversed by the court of appeals, sitting in Toledo. A petition in error was filed by the teachers in the supreme court, and this tribunal has just overruled a motion of their opponents to dismiss the petition.

NEWS FROM NEWARK.

Newark, N. J., March 11.—The new unions of jewelry workers and button workers have taken in 2,000 members, secured 1,500 signatures to the charter rolls. Last week Organizer Hilfers secured 300 signatures to the jewelry workers' list.

Mattress and box spring makers are being organized under jurisdiction of the Upholsterers' International union.

Over 1,000 silver workers in this city are being organized, as well as the leather workers and tanners.

The strike of cigar girls at the Seidenberg factory is still on, the girls standing firm for their increased wage demand. The strike affects the Cigarmakers' union, under the Class A plan.

GOMPERS' VISIT FRUITFUL.

Tampa, Fla., March 11.—The state federation of labor convention, recently held in this city, was the greatest in the history of the state. The presence of President Gompers created interest and enthusiasm among the Central Trades and Labor Assembly has taken advantage of the visit to organize the unorganized labor in this vicinity, and which has resulted in increased organization work and the formation of several locals to the central body.

EDISON STRIKE IS ENDED.

Orange, N. J., March 11.—Striking employes at the Edison plant in West Orange and Silver Lake have accepted the company's offer to increase wages 10 per cent. Hereafter they will be supplied with rubber boots and rubber gloves needed in carrying on the dangerous work at the chemical department. For overtime they will be paid time and one-quarter.

JOURNEYMEN TAILORS STRIKE.

New York, March 11.—Journeymen Tailors' union No. 1 called a strike to enforce better working conditions and increased wages. Many shops, including 20 piecers, which would end the practice of employes taking their work home. The tailors are also demanding increased wages and the elimination of Sunday work.

TWO UNIONS ORGANIZED

Crawfordsville, Ind., March 11.—Barbers and electrical workers in this city have organized and affiliated with their respective A. F. of L. international

NEW LAND LAW URGED BY OREGON UNIONISTS

PLAN IS INDORSED BY A. F. OF L.

No Tax on Improvements and a Tax Equal to Rent Favored.

State Then to Acquire Land at Delinquent Tax Sales Now Held by Speculators, and Assist Citizens to Cultivate Same.

Portland, Ore., March 11.—The indorsement of the Oregon "people's land and loan law" by the A. F. of L. executive council will be circulated to the locals of the state federation of labor in writing into the state constitution at the coming election.

The law was suggested by a committee appointed by the Portland Central Labor Council to investigate the question of unemployment. The state federation of labor at its last convention in Similar action was urged by Delegate E. E. Smith, representing the Portland central body at the San Francisco convention of the A. F. of L., which referred the matter to the executive council. The organization declares that the delegate Smith explained the workings of the proposed law as follows:

"In Oregon, as in many other states, or practically all the states, the large industrial centers have the political power and have control to a greater or less degree of the land and the natural resources of the state. A few of our fundamental industry the timber industry, and the Southern Pacific railroad and the great timber barons have possession of our resources. In studying the unemployment problem we decided there was only one way to get these resources back. We have many men in our state, as you have in yours, who want land. They would like to get out on the land. They cannot do so without paying the inflated speculative prices asked for it. If they had an opportunity to get on the land they haven't the money to do so. This bill is a combination of what is familiarly known as single tax and state aid. It does not go all the way. The only way we can hope to get the land and the natural resources back to the people is through taxation. The state government has never been able to limit taxation, and we propose to levy on a state tax such a sum per year as is equal to the land rent, whether it is used or whether it is not. One-third of all this rental will be placed in a homeseekers' loan fund. From this fund men and women in the state will be able to get a loan from the state a sum equal to $1,500. They have not over 10 years to repay it. Higher five years they will pay no interest except the administration expense of the fund. The state will charge 5 per cent a small rate of interest. We hope this will grow and develop so that in time we will not have to pay taxes, as in Oregon. Under this bill there can be no tax levied on personal improvements or through taxation of land. It will have to be done by and through the consent of the people. We propose to sell the delinquent taxes the state will pay all the delinquent taxes and the value of the improvements to the owner. When the state once acquires title to a piece of property, because of delinquent taxes, it will not be allowed to sell it to the state and it cannot be sold to private individuals. It must be leased."

GOMPERS TALKS TO TEACHERS

New York, March 11.—"You think that you are a professional people, but I tell you the hod carrier you see in the street getting more money per day than I am," said President Gompers in an address to teachers in this city who are discussing affiliating with the American Federation of Labor.

"Musicians did not want to mingle with musicians some years ago," he continued. "Now every impresario of note belongs to the union and they are getting 10 per cent more money to live on than ever before.

"There is not the slightest danger of your union being called out in a sympathetic strike. I pledge you my word before the power of the A. F. of L. that can direct you to strike or not to strike. That is left in your hands."

LOW WAGE GIRLS STRIKE

Cumberland, Md., March 11.—A score of girls employed by the Foote-a's dye works at a wage of $4.50 per week, went on strike against the reduction rates. A request that working conditions be improved was also rejected by the manager of the plant. The girls engaged in the cleaning of gloves, the girls were continually drenched with the dye. Their hands, kept in the same room, were often until to eat. With the advent of the new year, domestic the strikers have been organized.

EXPLOITERS OF BABES ALWAYS FIND EXCUSES

Indianapolis, March 11.—The United Mine Workers' Journal says in reference to James A. Emery, attorney for the National Association of Manufacturers, who appeared before the senate committee in opposition to the Keating-Owen federal child labor bill:

Mr. Emery assured the committee he was opposed to child labor, but in this instance he opposed it because it was unconstitutional." The Mine Workers' Journal makes this comment:

"Is industry so important to the welfare of the people that those who would be represents do not favor the exploitation of the babes of the nation? Is there in opposition to the Keating-Owen federal child labor bill?

"Whenever measures are under consideration for the purpose of safeguarding the workers in the industries, restricting the exploitation of the women or children, or providing for the safety and the welfare of humanity, there will be found representatives of the organized interests of the country who will be in front of such laws, and ever will be found the highest-paid representatives of the Manufacturers' Association arrayed against them. Always trying to hide heaven their purity of purpose, their interest in the uplift of those in the lowly, finding special objections to our measures that might make for a higher, better civilization, and adopting devious or threatening the legislators, the executives and the judges in the end laws that make for the progress threaten to reduce the power of the owners of the resources of the country. They can be counted for because every time."